Annual Reports

OF

The Public Health and Sanitary Administration

OF THE

Pontypool Urban District

For the Year 1925,

BY

THOS. McALLEN, M.B., B.Ch.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

Mr. O. J. R. PRUDEN, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

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HUGHES & SON, PONTYPOOL.

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HANBURY ROAD,

PONTYPOOL,

May, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Pontypool Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of Vital Statistics and Sanitary Circumstances for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Minister of Health requires that the report for the year 1925 shall contain a survey of the past five years, shewing the progress made in the area in matters pertaining to the improvement to the Public Health, *e.g.*, Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage, Scavenging or Refuse Disposal, etc., etc.

Physical and Social Conditions.

The district is embraced on the North and West by the Abersychan Urban District and bounded on the South by the Panteg Urban District and occupies both banks of the Afon Lwyd River for a distance of a little under a mile.

The surface of the district is extremely irregular and hilly and lies to the North of the Trosnant Brook and to the West of the Afon Lwyd River. The ground rises in a northerly, north-westerly, and westerly direction from the before mentioned streams, and lies at an elevation varying from 400 to 700 feet above

sea level, and comprises an area of 234 acres. It lies upon the carboniferous system, or more particularly the Millstone Grit or farewell rock, and forms the eastern outcrop of the South Wales Coalfield.

The inhabitants are chiefly engaged in the ordinary business of a Market town, Coal Mining, Steel Works, and Tinplating. There are no collieries actually within your district but a large number of the inhabitants are employed at coal and iron works in the neighbouring districts.

General Statistics.

Area	234 Acres.
Population (1925) estimated	7,516
Do. at 1921 Census	6,881
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	1,291
Do. of families or separate occupiers (1921)	1,432
Rateable Value	£32,500
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£130

The Adoptive Acts and Bye Laws in force are:—

1. The Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.
2. The Public Libraries Act.

Bye Laws.

1. New Streets and Buildings.	Approved 1894.
2. Prevention of Nuisances.	
3. Omnibus Regulations.	
4. Common Lodging-Houses.	
5. Slaughterhouses.	
6. Offensive Trades.	

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Order, 1885.

Vital Statistics.

For the district during the year 1925 :—

The population for the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates are the figures estimated by the Registrar General at mid-year, viz., 7,516.

Birth Rate	21.6 per 1,000 population
Death Rate..	10.77 per 1,000 population
Infantile Death Rate ..	79.7 per 1,000 births
Zymotic Death Rate ..	.26 per 1,000 population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.38 per 1,000 population
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	0.26 per 1,000 population

Birth Rate.

One hundred and sixty-three births were registered during the year, of which 82 were males and 81 females, yielding a birth rate for the year of 21.6 per 1,000 population against 24.3 for the previous year.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births : Legitimate ..	159	79	80
Illegitimate ..	4	3	1

Birth Rate :—21.6 per 1,000 population.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From Sepsis	0
From other Causes	1

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Births :—

Legitimate	79.7
Illegitimate	0

		per 1,000 population
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	1 ..	0.13
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0 ..	0.00
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	0 ..	0.00

Death Rate.

The deaths registered in the district numbered 59, to which must be added 21 deaths of persons belonging to the district which occurred outside your area and which were transferred in under the Registrar General's rule in respect of transferrable deaths, making a total of 80 deaths for the year, giving a death rate of 10.77 per 1,000 population against 9.88 for the previous year.

It is pleasing to record a steady decline in your death rate during the past five years, from 14 per 1,000 in 1921 to 10.77 in the year under review, giving an average for the five years of 11.97, as against an average of 14.5 for the qunquennial period 1916—1920.

M. 13.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT, 1925.

	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
	All Causes	42	39
1	Enteric fever	..	..
2	Small-pox	..	..
3	Measles	1	..
4	Scarlet fever	..	..
5	Whooping cough	..	..
6	Diphtheria	1	..
7	Influenza	..	1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	..	..
9	Meningococcal meningitis ..	..	..
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	2
11	Other tuberculous diseases ..	1	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease ..	6	1
13	Rheumatic fever	..	..
14	Diabetes	1	..
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ..	..	3
16	Heart Disease	3	7
17	Arterio-sclerosis	1	..
18	Bronchitis	4	5
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	3	4
20	Other respiratory diseases ..	1	..
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	1	..
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ..	..	..
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis ..	1	1
24	Cirrhosis of liver	2	1
25	Acute and chronic nephritis ..	..	..
26	Puerperal sepsis	..	..
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ..	..	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ..	6	4
29	Suicide	..	..
30	Other deaths from violence ..	3	..
31	Other defined diseases	6	8
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown ..	..	..
	Special Causes (included above) :		
	Poliomyelitis	..	..
	Polioencephalitis	..	..
	Deaths of infants under 1 year		
	Total	6	7
	Illegitimate	..	..
	Total Births	82	81
	Legitimate	79	80
	Illegitimate	3	1
	Population	7,516	

General Register Office,
Somerset House, London, W.C.2.

Table I.

Causes of Deaths set out in Age Groups.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards
All Causes. Certified ..	78	13	5	1	5	6	7	26	15
All Causes. Uncertified ..	2	..	..	..	...	..	...	1	1
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc...	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Heart Disease	10	1	..	..	1	..	..	4	4
Arterio Sclerosis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Bronchitis	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	5	2
Pneumonia (All forms) ..	6	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	1
Other Respiratory Diseases..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhilitis..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	..	..
Puerperal Sepsis .. :	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and malformation, premature birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other deaths from violence..	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Other defined diseases ..	15	..	1	..	2	1	2	4	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polioencephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	80	13	5	1	5	6	7	27	16

DEATH RATE.

The following table shews in parallel columns the Comparative Death Rates for the Pontypool District with those of England and Wales and Monmouthshire during the decade ending 1925 with their respective averages:—

Year.	*England & Wales.*	*Monmouthshire.*	*Pontypool.*
1916	14.	12.9	14.1
1917	14.4	11.7	13.58
*1918	17.6	15.3	18.7
1919	13.8	11.7	14.5
1920	12.4	11.85	13.7
1921	12.1	11.28	14.
1922	12.9	11.4	13.02
1923	11.6	10.4	12.2
1924	12.2	10.5	9.88
1925	12.2	10.6	10.77
Averages for 10 years	13.32	11.76	13.44

* The year of the great Influenza epidemic throughout the country.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of the Pontypool Urban District during the years 1920–25.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
			Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages	
		Uncorrected Number.	Number.	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1920	7,152	216	216	30·2	78	10·9	—	20	10	46	98	13·7
1921	6,990	208	208	29·7	74	10·59	—	24	23	110·5	98	14·0
1922	7,141	171	171	23·94	74	10·3	1	20	11	64·3	93	13·02
1923	7,280	181	181	24·8	71	9·6	—	18	12	66·2	89	12·2
1924	7,489	182	182	24·3	56	7·49	1	19	9	49·4	74	9·88
1925	7,516	163	163	21·6	60	7·9	—	21	13	79·7	81	10·77

ENGLAND AND WALES.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 Years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·47	8·4	75	92·1	6·9	1·0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·43	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·14	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1
London ...	18·0	11·7	0·01	0.00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·46	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0

Infantile Mortality.

Thirteen deaths of Infants under one year of age were registered during the year, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 79.7 per 1,000 births against 49.4 for the previous year.

Here, too, there is good reason for congratulation, the average Infantile Mortality for the past five years having fallen to 73.9 per 1,000 births, as compared with 83.6 for the previous five years.

The principal causes of death were :—Premature Birth, six, and two each from Debility, Bronchitis and other Causes.

The County Medical Staff administer the "Midwives Act, 1902," and the "Notification of Births Act, 1907," and employ a Health Visitor in your district, the Clinic being held at Tabernacle Schoolroom, Crane Street, where Mothers and babies are seen by the staff on Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4, under the direction of Dr. Winifred Austin, Assistant County Medical Officer.

I am indebted to Dr. Rocyn Jones, the County Medical Officer, for kindly furnishing me with a report of the year's work at this Centre, which I have incorporated in this report.

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1925.

Nett Deaths from Stated Causes at Various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes { Certified ..	6	1			7	2	2	1	1	13
All Causes { Uncertified ..										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Diphtheria and Croup ..										
Whooping Cough										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Tuberculous Meningitis ..										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Congenital Malformations										6
Premature Birth	5	1			6					2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus						1	1			1
Atelectasis								1		
Injury at Birth										
Erysipelas										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										
Convulsions										
Gastritis										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis						1			1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..										
Suffocation (overlying) ..										
Other Causes	1				1		1			2
Totals	6	1			7	2	2	1	1	13

Pontypool Infant Welfare Centre.

This Clinic shows a decrease in numbers compared with the previous year, the average attendance being 19.8 compared with 21.1 in 1924, and the number on the register 241 compared with 272.

Of the 161 infants under twelve months of age, 89 were breast-fed, *i.e.*, 55.27%, and 28 breast and bottle-fed, *i.e.*, 17.3%, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 59.6 and 18.2.

In 23 cases of breast-feeding the babies were not weaned at the proper time.

60 children over 2 years of age attended during the year.

The number of mothers advised shows a satisfactory increase, 43 nursing and 8 expectant, compared with 30 nursing and 2 expectant in the previous year.

Three sets of twins were brought to the Centre during the year, and five of the babies are doing well. The other had severe congenital V.D.H. and was unable to contend with an attack of acute Bronchitis.

The value of milk given free to necessitous mothers during the year was :—Dried Milk, £8 19*s.* 1*d.*; Fresh Milk, £41 15*s.* 1*d.*"

Infantile Death Rates Compared.

Year.	*England & Wales.*	*Monmouthshire.*	*Pontypool.*
	Per 1,000 Births.		
1916	91.7	88.4	97.5
1917	97.	84.3	79.7
1918	97.	97.6	89.1
1919	89.	88.	106.1
1920	80.	87.85	46.
1921	83.	91.5	110.
1922	77.	83.4	64.3
1923	69.	73.02	66.2
1924	75.	75.6	49.4
1925	92.1	83.8	79.7
10 years' Averages :—	85.08	85.34	89.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases of Pulmonary and two of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, while there were three deaths from the former and two the latter forms of the disease.

The Welsh National Memorial Association have an Institute in the Park buildings which serves the Valley, where Dr. Carveth Johnson, the Tuberculosis Physician, sees sufferers on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Each case notified is enquired into and a report made to the Association in accordance with the Order T.1 Wales.

Notification Rate per 1,000 population :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Pulmonary ..	0.45	0.35	0.17	0.34	0.26
Other Forms ..	0.0	0.08	0.08	0.17	0.26

Death Rate per 1,000 population :—

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Pulmonary ..	1.3	0.44	0.7	0.51	0.38
Other Forms ..	0.00	0.09	0.08	0.17	0.26

Table IV.—TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15				2		1		
20							1	
25		1				1		1
35								
45								
55	1				1			
65 and upwards								
Totals	1	1		2	1	2	1	1

I am indebted to Dr. A. Carveth Johnson, the Tuberculosis Physician to the King Edward VII. Welsh National Memorial Association, for the following report on the work done at the Pontypool Institute during the year.

Report of Work in Pontypool District during the year ended December 31st, 1925.

"The Visiting Station for the district is at the Park Buildings, Pontypool.

There is ample accommodation for patients here, and larger numbers could be dealt with than actually attend.

The attendances for the year numbered 943.

All new patients must, or course, be sent by their own Doctors.

Details of work done are as follows :—

NEW PATIENTS SEEN.

	New Cases	Found to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Men ..	.. 10	4	0
Women	.. 11	2	2
Children	.. 27	0	1
Total	.. **48**	**6**	**3**

Number treated in Sanatorium 3.
Number treated in Hospital.. 10.
Total number treated during the year .. 45.

The Proposed Care Committees for the district unfortunately failed to materialise, the chief difficulty being that of finance. This is greatly to be regretted as further social help is badly needed.

What may be called the Medical requirements are adequately dealt with—from the Public Health point of view by the District Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, and from the personal health point of view by the General Practitioners, Tuberculosis Officer, County Council nurses and District nurses, whilst there are many beds available in Hospital and Sanatorium. Unfortunately, tuberculous patients

do not make use of these facilities to anything like the extent that they might.

The disease is very insidious, and only too often early symptoms are attributed to anything but the right cause, with the result that when the patients finally visit a Doctor the disease is found to be well advanced and all opportunity of getting a cure is lost.

As the disease is now known not to be a hereditary complaint, but must be caught from someone, great importance is paid to the examination of all contacts to sufferers from this disease. All patients are invited to get the rest of the family and anyone else in the house to attend for examination. Unfortunately, the response is not very good. However, some progress is being made towards stamping out the disease."

Causes of Death.

There were no deaths from Small P0x, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, nor Whooping Cough, during 1925.

Measles, Diphtheria and Influenza caused one death each.

There were three deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System and two from other Tuberculous diseases.

Cancer was responsible for seven deaths, Heart Disease ten, Bronchitis nine, Pneumonia seven, Cirrhosis three, and Congenital Debility, etc., ten.

Zymotic Diseases.

There are Seven " Principal " Zymotic Diseases, and the deaths therefrom are :—

Small Pox	0
Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	0
Whooping Cough	0
Diphtheria, including Membraneous Croup ..	1
Fevers (including Typhus, Typhoid, Enteric and other Continued)	0
Infective Diarrhoea and Enteritis	0
Total	2

giving a Zymotic death rate for the year of .26 per 1,000 population.

TABLE VI.

Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year, arranged in Age Groups.

DISEASE	Under 1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total All Ages
Diphtheria	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Malaria and Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	1	2	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	9
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	..	..	3	2	4	2	..	1	..	1	..	13

TABLE VII.

Analysis of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases according to Age Groups.

DISEASE	Under 1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total All Ages
Diphtheria	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Malaria and Dysentery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	5

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Council does not provide professional nursing, but a district Nurse is employed by the Pontypool and Panteg District Nursing Association, who assists in the nursing of such cases as in the opinion of the Medical Practitioners are in need of such skilled assistance as a qualified nurse is able to render, whose assistance is greatly appreciated.

No Isolation hospital for the reception of the Infectious Sick has been provided, but an arrangement has been made with the Newport County Borough for the reception at Alteryn Isolation Hospital of such infectious cases as cannot be isolated in their homes.

Anti-Diphtheretic Serum is always kept in stock for the supply of all Medical Practitioners requiring the same.

There is no General Hospital immediately within the area of Pontypool, but the workmen and others of the district who subscribe to the Pontypool and District General Hospital, situated in the Abersychan district, are entitled to its privileges when necessity arises.

There are twelve honorary members on the Medical Staff of the Hospital, and Motor Ambulances are provided for the removal of patients.

Housing.

In reviewing the progress made in Housing during the past five years, I have to congratulate you on the efforts made to grapple with the Housing question.

One hundred and eighty-four new houses having been erected under your different schemes, while sixteen huts of a temporary character were erected at a cost of £1,500, in which to house the dispossessed tenants of Railway Parade, the houses having become dangerous through dilapidation.

To complete the removal of the occupiers from the ruinous houses in West Street, three other houses

were reconditioned and a portion of the Park Stables converted to a dwelling.

Of the new houses erected under the Assisted Schemes, seventy were of the Dorman-Long type of concrete houses. These have not proved satisfactory. Owing to the exposed position they are far from weather proof, which necessitated alterations and improvements in order to render them habitable.

The Scheme adjoining Bryn wern consists of eighty houses of the parlour type and forty non-parlour, the houses being semi-detached with a fore-court or lawn in front and a garden at the rear, and number about 13 to the acre, having fairly wide streets and ample open spaces.

Forty houses have been erected during the year under the Wheatley Act, and a further fifteen are in course of construction.

Your district is now becoming so congested that there is little land left for building Schemes, unless you secure an extension of boundary, or build houses in the adjoining districts.

The clearance of Railway Parade removes one of the worst slums of the district, but Gibson's Square, West Street and Irish Row remain to be dealt with. I trust no time will be lost in their clearance.

Difficulties in the way of securing reconstruction or any considerable improvement to old properties of the Cottage type, on account of the leasehold conditions, and to carry out your Schemes of reconstruction it has been necessary to purchase the sites.

Closing Orders have been made in respect of Eight houses in Irish Row, Four in Turner's Lane, and One each in George Street, Gwent Street, and Albion Road.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*)	54
(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority.. ..	40
(ii) By other bodies or persons ..	1

I.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 269

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 116

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 39

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 113

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers Nil

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. 56

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices .. 39

(*a*) By Owners

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	137
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(*a*) By owners	108
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners..	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made..	16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ..	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	32

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the Water Supply of the district since my last report. The water is obtained from the Pontypool Gas & Water Co.'s mains which circulate throughout the district, is of excellent quality, and a constant supply is maintained. No case of shortage came to my notice during the year.

Factory and Workshops Act.

The Workshops of the district have been inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector, who has reported on the matter.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

House refuse is collected daily throughout the district, the work being carried out by direct labour. The refuse is removed to the Council's Destructor in covered carts, where it is sorted before incineration.

There are several unsightly Refuse Bins in the district which, in my opinion, should be removed, as with a daily collection they are unnecessary.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

As I have previously reported there has been no alteration in the Sewerage System, all of which discharge crude sewage into the Afon Lwyd or its tributaries.

The water carriage system prevails throughout.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two private Slaughterhouses in the district, both of which are far from complying with the requirements of the Bye Laws relating to Slaughterhouses.

You have for some years had under consideration the question of providing a Public Abbattoir. Plans have been prepared and a site selected. The Ministry's sanction for a loan is awaited; when this has been obtained I trust that no time will be lost in carrying out the Scheme, as under present conditions the preparation of the Meat Supply of the town is far from satisfactory, and efficient inspection impossible.

Number of Private Slaughterhouses 2

	In 1920	In January, 1925	In December, 1925
Registered ..	One	One	One
Licensed ..	Nil	Nil	Nil

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who visits the Slaughterhouses during the hours when killing and dressing is in progress, and any carcases or organs found to be diseased are seized and conveyed to the Destructor.

No system of Marking has been adopted.

Foodstuffs.

Food Shops, Stores, Bakehouses, and premises used for the manufacture, preparation, or storage of Foodstuffs, are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and all unsound or unwholesome foodstuffs are carried away and destroyed.

I have again to thank Mr. T. H. Lewis, the County Council Food and Drugs Inspector, for once more furnishing me with his report of the Samples of Foodstuffs submitted to the County Analyst.

Of forty-four samples of foodstuffs analysed, thirty-four were of Milk, four of which were certified to be adulterated. This condition of the Milk Supply is most unsatisfactory, especially when considered in conjunction with the reports of the County Pathologist on the fifty-two samples of Milk Bacteriologically examined. Both reports are incorporated herewith.

It is of the utmost importance that the Milk Supply should be clean, pure, and unadulterated.

The requirements for Grade A Milk are that it must not contain Bacillus Coli in 1/100th part of a cubic centimetre, nor more than 200,000 Bacteria per c.c.

Ordinary Milk retailed from door to door should nearly approach this standard, and this is possible where care and cleanliness obtains all along the line from producer to delivery at the home, and I reiterate my advice of last year that you exercise your powers under the Milk and Dairies Act, 1922, in all cases where adulteration is proved, or where high Bacterial Count reveals a condition of uncleanliness, such as is shewn in the accompanying report, to call the retailer before you to shew cause why he should not be struck off the Register.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

"Under the provisions of this Act, 48 Samples have been purchased in the Pontypool Urban District area during the year ended 31st December, 1925, and submitted to the Public Analyst for Analysis.

"The Samples consisted of Milk 34, Butter 2, Condensed Milk 2, Cream 2, Honey 2, and 1 each of Lard, Margarine, Pepper, Demerara Sugar, Coffee, and Strawberry Jam.

"Of these, 44 Samples were certified genuine, and 4 Milks adulterated, being respectively 13.00% deficient in fat, 3.29% added water, 6.33% deficient in fat, and 17.33% deficient in fat.

"In one case the vendor was cautioned. Summonses were issued in 3 cases, the vendors being fined in each case.

"All the Samples certified genuine were of excellent quality, and free from Boracic Acid or other preservative.

"The average composition of the Milk Supply for this district being Fat Content 3.42%, Solids not Fat 8.85%.

"Percentage of adulteration 8.33%.

"T. H. LEWIS."

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples.

No. of Sample	Number of Organisms per cubic centimeter	No. of Bacilli Coli per c.c.	Remarks
38	500,000	1 c.c.	
2	600,000	1 c.c.	
8	800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	
17	800,000	1/10th c.c.	Restaurant
39	1,100,000	1/10th c.c.	
5	1,600,000	1/100th c.c.	Restaurant
47	1,600,000	1/10th c.c.	Restaurant
44	1,700,000	1/10th c.c.	
11	1,800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	Restaurant
45	2,200,000	1 c.c.	
32	4,000,000	1/10,000th c.c.	
20	4,200,000	1/10th c.c.	
53	4,600,000	1/100th c.c.	Restaurant
24	6,800,000	1/10th c.c.	
1	8,800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	
52	11,200,000	1/10,000th c.c.	Restaurant
51	17,600,000	1 c.c.	Restaurant
4	20,000,000	1/100,000th c.c.	Restaurant
23	32,000,000	1/100th c.c.	Restaurant
46	36,800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	Restaurant

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples—*continued.*

No. of Sample	Number of Organisms per cubic centimeter	No. of Bacilli Coli per c.c.	Remarks
48	44,800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	Restaurant
22	52,800,000	1/10,000th c.c.	Restaurant
26	11,000	1/100th c.c.	
33	13,000	1 c.c.	
28	16,000	1 c.c.	
21	20,000	1 c.c.	
50	20,000	1/10th c.c.	Restaurant
13	22,000	1/10th c.c.	
9	30,000	1/10th c.c.	
12	30,000	1/100th c.c.	
25	30,000	1 c.c.	
30	30,000	1/10th c.c.	
29	32,000	1/10th c.c.	
14	40,000	1/10th c.c.	
18	40,000	1 c.c.	
10	50,000	1/10th c.c.	
27	50,000	1 c.c.	
40	50,000	1/10th c.c.	
19	60,000	1/1,000th c.c.	
31	60,000	1 c.c.	

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples —*continued.*

No. of Sample	Number of Organisms per cubic centimeter	No. of Bacilli Coli per c.c.	Remarks
42	60,000	1/1,000th c.c.	
16	70,000	1 c.c.	
7	80,000	1/100th c.c.	
41	90,000	1/10th c.c.	
6	100,000	1/100th c.c.	
34	100,000	1 c.c.	
37	100,000	1/10th c.c.	
35	140,000	1/1,000th c.c.	
3	160,000	1/100th c.c.	
49	200,000	1/1,000th c.c.	Restaurant
15	300,000	1/10th c.c.	
43	400,000	1 c.c.	
36	430,000	1/10th c.c.	

Conclusion.

Now that you have a whole-time Sanitary Inspector you can look forward to a steady improvement in the sanitary condition of the town, the betterment of dwellings, more efficient inspection of Meat and other foodstuffs, and the general administration of the Acts pertaining to the Public Health.

I have to thank Mr. Pruden, your Sanitary Inspector, for his loyal co-operation throughout the year, and refer you to his report of Nuisances abated and Sanitary improvements effected during the year.

I am,

Yours obediently,

T. McALLEN.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

PONTYPOOL.

DR. McALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

It is my pleasure to submit the following report on the work of Sanitary Administration for the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

General.

It will be appreciated that this being my first year of office, as Sanitary Inspector, a considerable amount of routine work has been necessary to bring the various sanitary departments under periodical supervision and record.

The inspection of Food Shops, Milk Shops, Fried Fish Shops and Slaughterhouses has now become a weekly part of my duties.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The following foodstuffs which were unsound or unwholesome, and therefore unfit for human consumption, have been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Tinned Fish		76 tins.
,, Meat		35 ,,
,, Fruit		272 ,,
,, Vegetables	..	324 ,,
,, Milk		258 ,,
Meat		208 lbs.
Bacon		78½ ,,
Sausage		48 ,,

Milk.

In conjunction with the County Sanitary Inspector 51 Samples of Milk were collected and submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination.

In one instance Tubercle Bacilli was found, and immediate steps were taken to ascertain the supply. Within 24 hours of locating the farm, the cow supplying the milk was destroyed, the Sanitary Inspector of the district verifying its slaughter.

On the whole the Bacteriological reports were not satisfactory, 19 samples being certified as satisfactory, whilst the other samples were objected to owing to either of the following reasons :—" High B. Coli Content, and also the large number of other organisms, pointing to excessive manurial contamination and want of care in handling or its having been kept overlong at higher temperatures."

In view of the fact that the Council are about to amend their Bye Laws relating to the Storeage and Distribution of Milk, no Certificates of Registration have been given to any Purveyors of Milk in the area.

Fried Fish Shops.

The number of Fried Fish Shops registered within your area is eight.

A number of complaints have been received of nuisances from certain Fish-Frying premises. On inspection I found the nuisances to arise from (*a*) The use of old vapour producing pans, with no means of carrying the fumes to a chimney stack ; (*b*) use of inferior oils, giving off offensive fumes.

On the whole I find the Local Fish Frier strict in cleanliness, and always willing to improve his method of manufacture in the interests of Public Health.

Slaughterhouses.

The Council have seriously considered your recommendation to provide a Public Slaughterhouse, and so enable you to do away with the insanitary and inefficient conditions at present prevailing.

An application is at present before the Ministry of Health to borrow £4,000, with a view to provide and equip this town with a modern Public Slaughterhouse.

The deplorable conditions of killing, cooling and the preparation for food in the one room, as exists in the present private slaughterhouses, makes it impossible, as you will appreciate, to carry out satisfactorily the necessary legal obligations of the Public Health Acts and the Meat Regulations.

It is hoped that before the time comes for the preparation of the 1926 Annual Report that the Ministry will have seen their way clear to sanction the borrowing of the required money, and that the new Abbattoir, if not in use, will at least be approaching completion.

Scavenging and Cleansing.

The scavenging organisation includes the use of two horses and carts and one Ford Ton Lorry, a Daily collection being made of bucket refuse. The bins are collected twice weekly ; the Surveyor has been able to dispense with two bins and substitute bucket collection. Owing to the difficulty of access to certain parts of the district he finds a difficulty in entirely doing away with the remaining bins.

One additional horse and cart is kept employed on collection of street and gully refuse.

A street orderly is kept continuously employed attending to the cleanliness of the main roads of the Town.

Refuse Disposal.

An additional " burning cell " has been installed at the Destructor in order to effectively cope with the increased amount of House Refuse.

On the other hand, the supply of Trade Refuse has increased at an alarming rate during the last twelve months, so as to seriously affect the working conditions of the Destructor.

The average number of loads of House Refuse burnt at the Destructor during the winter months has been 130 loads per week.

Common Lodging-houses.

Number registered	4
Removed from the Register ..	1
Number of day visits made ..	68
Number of night visits ..	16

I strongly advise the Council to adopt the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1907, relating to Lodging-houses, so as to bring within Official Recognition the Deputy Keeper. I find a laxity of control when making Night Visits, and by the adoption of the provisions mentioned a better standard could be enforced.

Inspection of Workshops.

Number of inspections ..	137
Number of defects found ..	5

The defects were :—

(1) Want of limewashing : four instances.
(2) Defective closet accommodation.

Nuisance Statistics.

Number of Complaints ..	295
Preliminary Notices	62
Statutory Notices	71

Drains—		*Closets*—	
Constructed ..	.. 410	Constructed	.. 182
Cleansed ..	.. 101	Repaired ..	.. 61
Tested ..	.. 447	Apparatus Fixed	.. 103
Abolished ..	.. 15	Repaired ..	.. 70
Gullies Fixed	.. 147		
Manholes Built	.. 59		

Yours obediently,

O. J. R. PRUDEN.

URBAN DISTRICT OF PONTYPOOL.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	51	4	NIL.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	86	1	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total	137	5	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	4	4		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient				
Unsuitable or defective ..	1	1		
Not separate for sexes ..				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—			NIL.	NIL.
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report				
Total	5	5		